

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claim 1 as being anticipated by two different references – Hsin and Sadler. In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 without adding new matter to clarify the differences between the claimed invention and the cited art. Both Hsin and Sadler fail to anticipate amended claim 1.

Claim 1 is directed to a peripheral accessory device for a wireless communication device (e.g., a hands-free headset) that allows a user to connect one or more additional peripheral accessory devices (e.g., an MP3 player) to the wireless device. The peripheral accessory device comprises an auxiliary system connector integrally formed with the cord that connects the peripheral accessory device to the wireless device. A switch on the auxiliary system connector selectively switches between signal paths that extend between the wireless communications device and the peripheral accessory devices to selectively connect them to the wireless communication device. This allows the selective use of multiple peripheral accessory devices even though they may share common signaling paths with the wireless communications device.

As amended, claim 1 now recites that the auxiliary system connector integrally formed with the cord is positioned along the cord between the system plug that mates with the system connector on the wireless communications device and the first peripheral accessory device. Neither Hsin nor Sadler disclose these aspects.

Beginning with Hsin, Hsin discloses a multipurpose adaptor that adaptor allows a user to connect a cellular telephone to a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port on a computer. The adaptor also includes a connector that receives a common dry-cell battery. This allows the user to employ either the computer or the dry-cell battery to recharge the cellular telephone.

Hsin fails to anticipate claim 1 in at least three respects. First, the Hsin adaptor is not integrally-formed with a cord that connects a peripheral device to a wireless communications

device as claimed. Rather, as seen in Figure 1 of Hsin, a cord (15) includes a connector (24) that releasably attaches the adaptor to a system plug (25). Releasably attaching an adaptor to a cord using a connector does not anticipate integrally-forming an auxiliary system connector with the cord.

Second, the Hsin adaptor connects directly to a USB port on a computing device. As such, the Hsin adaptor cannot be positioned along the cord and between a system plug and a peripheral device as claimed. Therefore, Hsin fails to anticipate claim 1 for this reason as well.

Finally, Hsin does not disclose a switch disposed on the adaptor to selectively connect first and second peripheral devices to the wireless communications device as claimed. Hsin discloses a switch and an LED on the adaptor. The Examiner contends that the LED is a “peripheral device” merely because it is physically separated from the wireless communication device. The Examiner further contends that the switch in the adaptor switches the LED into and out of a signal path.

The Examiner’s interpretation of Hsin warps what those skilled in the art would believe a “peripheral device” to be. No one skilled in the art would ever believe an LED to be a peripheral device. Moreover, Hsin never so much as *suggests* that the LED is a peripheral device. According to Hsin, the LED is part of the adaptor and simply indicates whether the adaptor is functioning to the user. *Hsin*, col. 2, ll. 21-33. Even when the LED is switched on in Hsin, the LED is not selectively connected to the wireless communication device and Hsin never discloses that it is. Thus, Hsin fails to anticipate claim 1 for this reason as well.

Next, Sadler also fails to anticipate claim 1. Sadler discloses a hands-free kit for a mobile telephone having a system plug that includes a plurality of female connectors that receive plugs from a cassette tape and a microphone. In some embodiments, the plug also includes a female connection that receives the connector of a CD player (*see e.g., Sadler*, Figure 7).

The Sadler adaptor is not integrally-formed with a cord as claimed. Instead, it is a physically separate piece of hardware specifically designed to releasably receive cords from other devices. Sadler never mentions that the adaptor is, or could be, integrally-formed with a cord. Moreover, even if Sadler did disclose this aspect (which Sadler does not), Sadler does not teach that the adaptor is positioned along the cord between a system plug and a peripheral device as claimed. In fact, the Sadler adaptor itself is a plug that connects directly to the wireless communications device. Such design necessarily eliminates Sadler as an anticipating reference.

In summary, both references fail to anticipate claim 1 because they both fail to teach each and every element. Accordingly, neither Hsin nor Sadler anticipate claim 1 or any of its dependent claims.

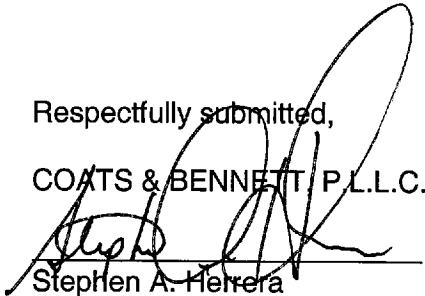
The Examiner also rejected independent claim 15 as being anticipated by both Hsin and Sadler for the same reasons as those stated to support the rejections of claim 1. Claim 15 is a method claim that corresponds to claim 1 and has been amended, without adding new matter, to include similar language. Therefore, for reasons similar to those stated above, both Hsin and Sadler fail to anticipate claim 15 or any of its dependent claims.

Neither reference anticipates the amended claims, and as such, all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner allow all pending claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

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